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REACH Expands to 69 School Districts with Statewide Signing Day DFCS Partnership to Pilot REACH with 30 Foster Youth

ATLANTA - Today, 353 Georgia students became REACH Georgia Scholars bringing total Scholar participants to over 680 in 69 participating school districts. Governor Deal launched REACH (Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen) in 2012 as a key initiative of Complete College Georgia. School systems partner with REACH and identify academically promising, low-income eighth grade students to receive REACH Scholarships. These scholars are paired with a mentor and an academic coach through high school. Upon graduation from high school, scholars are awarded up to a \$10,000 scholarship to be used at a Georgia HOPE-eligible two- or four-year college.

“The REACH program is a strategic investment in our students as well as our state, opening doors for youth in Georgia who may not otherwise be able to afford postsecondary education,” said Deal. “The Scholars who signed contracts today are among Georgia’s most promising students and this commitment will help them attend college and achieve their dreams.”

As part of the 2016 REACH Georgia Statewide Signing Day, REACH launched a pilot program in partnership with the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) to bring the social, academic and financial support of the REACH program to 30 foster youth students. “We are excited about this opportunity for our youth and what it means in helping them realize their highest educational achievement,” said DFCS Director, Bobby Cagle. “The supports offered will improve and assist their efforts, as most of these youth have had to overcome difficult and traumatic circumstances, but remained focused on their education.”

For more information about the REACH program, please visit www.reachga.org.

About the Georgia Student Finance Commission

REACH Georgia is administered by the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA), a companion student finance entity of the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC). GSFC is the state agency that administers the HOPE Scholarship and Grant Program as well as other state- and lottery- funded financial aid programs. GSFC also manages the career and college preparation website, GAfutures.org and provides educational services such as free financial aid consultation, default management and financial literacy to elementary, middle and high schools, and postsecondary institutions across the state. Additional information about GSFC products and services is available at www.gsfc.georgia.gov or www.GAfutures.org or 800.505.GSFC (4732).